744 The highest medical supervision is entrusted
• 759 to the Board of Public Health, operating under the ministry for the Interior, which also arranges for the education of nurses, while the universities provide education for physicians, dentists and pharmaceutists. Each administrative district has a district doctor who is responsible for medical care in the communes. Each commune has a Health Board which is in charge of public health in the smallest administrative units. The Health Board is by law obliged to engage a communal physician, a health nurse for each 4000 inhabitants, and a midwife for each 5000 inhabitants. Most communes have built special health centers with advisory stations for expectant mothers and infant care, and apartments for the health personnel.

ccc In addition, many organizations perform

743 In addition many organizations perform
758 voluntary work in the field of public health. The most important of these is General Mannerheim's Child Welfare League, which maintains clinics all over the country and formerly even took care of the training of the health nurses. It also maintains a special children's center, the Children's Castle , in Helsinki, for the training of nurses. In 1947 there were 1250 stations, communal and private, for maternity and nursing advice in the country.

743 The following table shows the general pro-
●759
758 gress in medical care during the time of Finland's independence:

	1917	1947
Hospitals	303	550
Beds in hospitals and lunatic asylums	10758	29150

743 759 Number of physicians employed by the State and the communes	450	966
Doctors in private practice	195	580
Dentists	209	1075
Pharmacists	327	427
Midwives	799	1171
Practicing nurses	1000	5000
Public health nurses	-	855
Mental hospital nurses	-	275

759 Although the medical personnel is well-trained and reliable, it is still too small in number. Proportionally there are fewer physicians in Finland than in any other West European country, one for every 1900 people (e.g. in Sweden one for every 1400). In spite of the economic opportunities for doctors in the faraway regions of Finland, young doctors have tended to concentrate in Helsinki. However, all over the country there is now a building program for modern, well-equipped central hospitals which should attract competent doctors in their employ.

SOURCES

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